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R E P O R T, &c.

LONDON, July 21, 1786.

AT a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Subscribers to a New ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION among PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, for the education of their Ministers and Youth, THOMAS ROGERS, Esq. was called to the Chair; and the Resolutions of the last General Meeting of March 10th having been read and unanimously confirmed, the following Report from the Committee was read: viz.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Committee have taken the liberty of now convening you, in order to inform you of the progress they have made in the important business with which you entrusted them. They cannot reflect on the liberality and zeal, with which the NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION has been encouraged, without peculiar satisfaction: And they have full confidence, that the Report, which they are now able to make, of the success of their application in its favour, will give you equal pleasure. Your Committee consider this success as a public testimony to the importance of that plan of education, which you concur in promoting; and as a happy omen of its establishment on a durable foundation, and of the extensive benefits that are likely to result from it.

As nothing deserves the attention of the Public in general, and of Protestant Dissenters in particular, more than the principles and character of their Youth; it

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seems strange that no such Institution as that now proposed, uniting education with domestic government, and extending the advantages of both, to lay-students as well as to candidates for the Ministry, should have been hitherto established in the neighbourhood of London; and that the liberality and public spirit of the Dissenters, so distinguished on a variety of other occasions, should never have been directed to this great object. The want of such a provision for the education of our laity in particular has often been the subject of complaint; and it is, indeed, an evil which there has been great reason to lament. A spirit of free inquiry is now generally diffused; and wherever it prevails, it revolts against those restrictions and shackles, which embarrass the integrity and obstruct the improvement of youthful minds. In the present advanced state of science and of religious liberty, there are many unconnected with us as Dissenters, who, we are persuaded, will rejoice in the establishment and success of that liberal system of education and of domestic discipline, which is the object of our Institution: And some of them have already afforded us considerable support. You will permit us to add, Gentlemen, that there is ample encouragement to proceed, with steady and active exertion, in accomplishing, to its utmost extent, the design which you are countenancing by your presence and by your contributions.

In pursuance of the instructions of a General Meeting, held in this place on the 10th of March, your Committee opened a subscription in London, and circulated proposals for it through different parts of the kingdom: And they have now the pleasure to report to you, that the amount of the donations, the principal part of which has been already received and invested in the funds, is SEVEN THOUSAND pounds, fifteen shillings; and that of the Annual Subscriptions six HUNDRED and SIXTY-FIVE pounds, fourteen shillings and sixpence.

You will observe, Gentlemen, in examining the list now delivered to you, that it contains the names of many respectable persons in various parts of the country, who concur in testifying their approbation of our Design,



Design, and in liberally promoting the execution of it. We are not unapprized, that, notwithstanding our utmost assiduity, there are many more, both in Town and Country, to whom we have not been able to communicate our proposals, and who will, without doubt, come forward, and unite their exertions to ours in the accomplishment of a plan that is intended for general utility. We can hardly suppose, that any, who are not influenced either by mistaken views or an improper spirit, can be active in their opposition to it. No considerate and candid person, we presume, can openly avow himself hostile to a Design, that has no other object but the benefit of our youth, of our churches, and of the community in general.

We are assured, Gentlemen, from the disposition to serve the Institution which you have already discovered, that you will avail yourselves of every opportunity that may occur for increasing the number of its Friends. It is needless to state to you, that though the assistance which has been received is liberal and encouraging, it requires a large increase, in order to render it fully adequate to the great expence, that must unavoidably attend the first establishment of an Institution which shall be worthy of the generosity of its friends, respectable in its connection with that body of Dissenters who are engaged in founding and supporting it, extensive in its benefits, and permanent in its duration. We hope, therefore, that those with whom you are to entrust the future conduct and final accomplishment of the plan which has been adopted, will endeavour to procure farther aids for its support, by recommending it to such of the liberal-minded among their acquaintance as may not yet be sufficiently informed concerning it.

Your Committee have not been inattentive to a variety of other circumstances, that are essentially connected with the establishment and future prosperity of the Institution. They have been indefatigable in their endeavours to procure a house, in a situation agreeable to the views of the Benefactors and Subscribers, and fit for accommodating a sufficient number of Students. But notwithstanding the most diligent search and inquiry, they have not hitherto been able to find any

house that is at all adapted to the purpose. It is, therefore, their opinion, that it will be thought necessary to build a commodious Academical House: And that this is the most practicable, and, all circumstances considered, the most eligible, and, probably, the most frugal measure. They also apprehend, that the parts adjacent to Hackney or Clapton would, for a variety of reasons which it is unnecessary to enumerate, be convenient in respect of situation: And they have reason to believe, that a proper spot of ground may be obtained in that neighbourhood. In the mean while your Committee are of opinion, that suitable apartments should be procured for one year, for the purpose of giving lectures to such divinity-students as the General Committee may think proper to encourage, until the Institution be fixed in a house capable of admitting a resident Tutor and the Students in general, at the beginning of the session 1787.

Your Committee farther inform you, that they have applied by a particular letter to each of the Trustees and Subscribers of the late Warrington Academy, and also by a memorial addressed to them at their General Meeting on the 29th of June: And they have the satisfaction to add, that the Trustees and Subscribers have been so obliging as to assign to the New Academical Institution their Philosophical Apparatus, and a moiety of the surplus of their remaining funds, under certain restrictions.

Application has likewise been made to the Trustees of the late Academy at Exeter for the use of their library, which your Committee have reason to believe will be attended with success.

The 23d Resolution of the 10th of March, which expresses that "a permanent fund is of great importance to the prosperity and continued subsistence of this institution," appeared to your Committee of such moment as to deserve their particular attention. You, Gentlemen, we are persuaded, will excuse our anticipating a business, which is referred by that Resolution to the General Committee; and allow us to submit to your approbation some regulations with respect to such a fund, which we are of opinion it may be proper to adopt.

adopt. We are happy to think, that the liberality of the friends of the Institution empowers us to make an immediate appropriation of part of our capital to this fund; and that we shall be able to reserve such a proportion of future benefactions for this purpose, as to render this not only a permanent, but an increasing fund.

Your Committee now beg leave to recommend the choice of a General Committee, agreeably to your Resolutions of the 10th of March, who, we doubt not, will devote much of their time and attention to the completion of the great object which we have in view. Wisdom, unanimity, and zeal, are necessary to perfect your Design: And we trust that every exertion will be made, by those to whom you commit the establishment of your Institution, for ensuring its credit and prosperity; and that, conscious of the integrity of their views, and encouraged by the magnitude and importance of the object, as well as by the concurrence of those whose approbation is of the greatest value, they will persevere in so good a cause. The hope of its answering the important and useful ends, which you propose, and of its conducing to the extensive and lasting benefit of Protestant Dissenters and of the community in general, must animate every friend of religion and liberty, of his country and of mankind.

The Report of the Committee having been read, the Chairman made the following Report, viz.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to inform you, that in pursuance of the 14th Resolution of the 10th of March, application has been made to the Gentlemen therein named, requesting their assistance for carrying on the purposes of the Institution, as Tutors. I have now the pleasure to acquaint you, that Dr. Price will assist in giving lectures on select parts of Morals, Mathematics, Astronomy, and Natural Philosophy: Dr. Kippis has consented to lecture on the Belles Lettres, including Universal Grammar, Rhetoric, Chronology, and History: Dr. Rees has undertaken Divinity, Hebrew, Jewish Anti-

quities, Ecclesiastical History, and lectures on other subjects preparatory to the Ministry: And Mr. Worthington has undertaken Logic and Classical Literature. Dr. Rees and Mr. Worthington have also engaged to instruct the Students in the elementary parts of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in the ensuing year, until the arrangement of Tutors for the New Institution can be completed, and the whole plan carried into full execution by the erection of a proper building.

I am directed farther to inform you, Gentlemen, that the Committee recommend particular attention to the instruction of the Students in Experimental Philosophy, Chemistry, and a proper mode of elocution.

After these reports the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously agreed to, viz.

- I. WHEREAS by the 2d Resolution of the 10th of March it was resolved, that some farther regulations be adopted as to those who shall become Annual Subscribers after the 24th of June, it is now resolved, in order to accommodate such persons as have not yet had an opportunity of subscribing to the New Academical Institution, that the payment of two, three, four, or five guineas, or upwards, before the 25th of December next, as an Annual Subscription, shall constitute an Annual Governor: But that, after the 25th of December, the first payment of five guineas or upwards, the second payment of four guineas, the third payment of three guineas, and the fourth payment of two guineas, each as an Annual Subscription, shall be necessary to constitute Annual Governors.
- II. THAT one-third of the present and future donations, benefactions, and bequests to the New Academical Institution in the neighbourhood of London, the same not being Annual Subscriptions, shall go to create a permanent fund; the capital whereof shall be preserved for ever inviolable and unalienable in the hands of Trustees.
- III. THAT on the 1st of January in each year, the Treasurer shall make up an account of all such donations, benefactions, and bequests, not being Annual

Annual Subscriptions, as shall have been received in the preceding year, and deliver the same to the General Committee at their next ensuing Meeting; that one-third of the amount thereof may be paid or placed by the General Committee to the account of such fund.

IV. THAT the Annual income arising from the permanent fund shall alone be paid from time to time, as it arises, towards the support of the said Institution, in such manner as the General Committee shall direct; or, if the said Institution shall at any time hereafter be dissolved, or be discontinued for the space of three years, to the founding or to the support of any other Academical Institution, or of any Institution preparatory to such among the Protestant Dissenters, for the liberal education of youth in any part of England or Wales; or in giving exhibitions to Students for the Ministry; or in supporting one or more Tutors at any such Institution or Institutions within the same limits; as the General Committee shall direct.

V. THAT in case of the dissolution or suspension for three years of the said Institution, and after the discharge of its debts, all other property belonging to the said Institution, which shall then be subject to the disposal of the General Committee, shall be held in trust by the Trustees to be chosen in pursuance of the 7th Resolution of the General Meeting of the 10th of March last, jointly with the Trustees of the permanent fund; and that such other property shall thenceforth be applied to the same objects and by the same authority as the income of the permanent fund.

VI. THAT the General Committee establish the permanent fund, as soon as possible, agreeably to the preceding Resolutions; and that they prepare a proper declaration or deed of Trust for this purpose. That four Gentlemen, who are Governors for life, be appointed Trustees of the said fund, and that they be authorized to invest the monies belonging to it in land, stocks, buildings, or mortgages, and to vary and transpose the securities,

ties, under the direction of the General Committee, as circumstances may require. That all vacancies in this Trust shall be filled up by the General Meeting. And that the following Gentlemen be the first Trustees, viz. Mr. Joseph Travers, Mr. John Towgood, Mr. William Eddale, and Mr. Thomas Rogers, jun.

VII. THAT in pursuance of the 4th Resolution of the 10th of March, the following Gentlemen be the General Committee, viz.

Levy Ames, Esq.	Rev. T. Morgan,
Nath. Barnardiston, Esq.	W. Newman, Esq. & Ald.
Dr. Bayly	Robert Newton, Esq.
Henry Beauchamp, Esq. M. P.	Richard Price, D. D.
Benjamin Boddington, Esq.	Abraham Rees, D. D.
Richard Bright, Esq.	Thomas Rickards, Esq.
George Brooksbank, Esq.	Thomas Rogers, Esq.
R. Hall Clarke, Esq.	William Ruffel, Esq.
Richard Cooke, Esq.	John Savery, Esq.
Michael Dodson, Esq.	William Scollard, Esq.
Sir James Eddale, Alderman	Samuel Shore, Esq.
John Finch, Esq.	Samuel Shore, jun. Esq.
Edward Grubb, Esq.	Rev. J. Simpson,
William Hawker, Esq.	Philip Slater, Esq.
Christ. Henkelin, Esq.	William Smith, Esq. M. P.
Sir H. Houghton, Bart. M. P.	Isaac Solly, Esq.
T. Brand Hollis, Esq.	Thomas Streatfield, Esq.
B. B. Hopkins, Esq. M. P.	William Tayleur, Esq.
Rev. T. Jarvis,	R. G. Temple, Esq.
George Jeffery, Esq.	Matthew Towgood, Esq.
Edward Jeffries, Esq.	Joseph Turton, Esq.
Adam Jellicoe, Esq.	Mr. John Wanley,
John Ingram, Esq.	George Webster, Esq.
Francis Kemble, Esq.	James West, Esq.
Andrew Kippis, D. D.	Isaac Wilkinson, Esq.
Thomas Lees, Esq.	Rev. Ed. Williams, Notting.
Rev. F. Lindsey,	T. Carill Worley, Esq.
Rev. J. Lindsay,	Rev. H. Worthington, jun.
Philip Mallet, Esq.	John Yerbury, Esq.
George Maltby, Esq.	

VIII. THAT

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R. Alderson, Norwich
Edward Armstrong, Bath
R. Barbauld, Warwick-court
Malachi Blake, Taunton
Samuel Blythe, Birmingham
John Coates, ditto
J. Disney, D. D. Brumpton
Peter Emans, Coventry
W. Enfield, LL. D. Norwich
— Estlin, Bristol
Hugh Farmer, Walthamstow
J. Fuller, Chesham, Bucks
S. Griffiths, Wolverhampton
R. Harris, Colchester
W. Hawkes, Birmingham

P. Jillard, near Taunton
W. Johnstone, Brighthelmst.
George Morgan, Yarmouth
James Pickbourn, Hackney
— Pope, Stand, near Manch.
J. Priestley, LL. D. Birmingham.
R. Scolefield, ditto
— Walker, Enfield
G. Walker, Nottingham
W. Walters, Wimbledon
William Wood, Leeds
H. Worthington, Leicester
T. Wren, D. D. Portsmouth
John Yates, Liverpool.

IX. THAT in pursuance of the 7th Resolution of the 10th of March, the following four Gentlemen be Trustees, viz. Nathaniel Barnardiston, Esq. William Smith, Esq. M. P. Samuel Shore, jun. Esq. and Mr. John Wansey.

X. THAT in pursuance of the 8th Resolution the following three Gentlemen be the Committee of Treasury, viz: Thomas Rogers, Esq. Matthew Towgood, Esq. and Michael Dodson, Esq.

XI. THAT in pursuance of the 9th Resolution the following three Gentlemen, being Governors, but not of the General Committee, be Auditors of the Accounts of this Society, viz. Mr. Isaac Thompson, Mr. William Stone, and Mr. Sturch.

XII. THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Trustees and Subscribers of the late Warrington Academy for granting their Philosophical Apparatus and a moiety of the surplus of their remaining funds to the New Academical Institution: And that the Chairman be desired to transmit the same to Thomas Butterworth Bayley, Esq. the Chairman of the late Meeting, held at Warrington on the 29th of June.

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XIII. THAT

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XIV. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman.

(Signed)

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.

N. B. The Trustees of the Library belonging to the late Exeter Academy met on the 21st instant to consider of the application referred to in the above Report.

Present, the Rev. MIC. TOWGOOD,

Rev. JOHN HOGG,

Rev. ABRAHAM TOZER,

Rev. J. P. BARTLETT,

Rev. JAMES MANNING.

Who unanimously agreed to grant the use of their Library to the New Academical Institution; at the same time presenting their compliments to the Gentlemen of the Committee, and assuring them that they wish them every degree of success in the present undertaking, that they are happy to have it in their power to oblige them, and that they shall always hold themselves under continued obligations to do all they can to forward so laudable a Design.

The following is a copy of a Vote of thanks passed at the half-yearly Assembly of Protestant Dissenting Ministers, held at Exeter on the 10th of May last, transmitted by the Moderator of that Assembly to Thomas Rogers, Esq.

Resolved,

THAT the thanks of this Assembly be returned to the Gentlemen of the Committee of the New Academical Institution for their attention to the state of the

the Dissenting Interest, and their vigorous exertions to support it. That the Moderator be desired to communicate the thanks of the Assembly to the Committee, and at the same time express our approbation of the general plan of the New Institution, and our wishes for its success.

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.

(Signed)

JAMES MANNING, Moderator.

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The following is a copy of a Vote of thanks passed at the half-yearly Assembly of the Exeter Dissenting Ministers, held at Exeter on the 20th of May last, transmitted by the Moderator of that Assembly to Thomas Rogers, Esq.

Resolved,

THAT the thanks of this Assembly be returned to the Gentlemen of the Committee of the New Academy Institution for their attention to the state of the



